



SOUTHEAST FISHERIES BULLETIN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 27, 2005
NR05-005

COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL FISHERY CLOSED FOR VESSELS USING RUN-AROUND GILLNETS IN THE SOUTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE

Beginning 6:00 a.m., local time, January 28, 2005, the commercial run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) announced closure of this fishery after projecting that landings would reach the quota (520,312 pounds) on that date. The gillnet fishery will remain closed in the exclusive economic zone through 6:00 a.m., local time, January 17, 2006, unless changed by a future notification in the *Federal Register*.

The southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone off Collier and Monroe Counties, Florida. From November 1 through March 31, the southern subzone extends south and west from 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundary) to 26° 19.8' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County, Florida, boundary).

During the closure, no one may fish for or possess king mackerel in or from the closed

area when on board a vessel issued a federal king mackerel permit with a gillnet endorsement. Also, during the closure, no one on board a vessel using or possessing a gillnet with a stretched-mesh size of 4.75 inches (12.1 cm) or larger in the southern Florida west coast subzone may fish for or possess Gulf group king mackerel.

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources